



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Region)
Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

Spring Fire Management Meeting **Cheyenne, Wyoming** **April 3-6, 2006**

Members Present:

Rich Homann
Bill Wallis
Dave Carter
Ray Weidenhaft
L. Dean Clark
Darrell Ausborn
Bill Ott
Steve Eckert (acting for John A. Glenn)

Ross Hauck
Cal Pino
Joe Lowe
Jim Fletcher
Joyce Feeley
Don Artley
Beth Hermanson

Members Not Present:

Don Westover
Tom Corbin

Guests:

Sue Muir
Larry Helmerick
Jim Barnett

Introductions were made, Darrell reviewed the rules of the meeting, and requested any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions were added. Some members who are shown as present, did not actually join the RMCG meeting until after their respective team or committee meeting was finished.

Thank you – Ray Weidenhaft

- Darrell would like to thank Ray Weidenhaft for all the hard work he has done for the logistical needs required to hold the Spring Meeting.

Agenda Items – Darrell Ausborn

- Darrell requested any changes to the agenda – there were none.
- He also stated that on Thursday the committee would need to discuss when and where to hold the fall meeting and the spring meeting for next year (2007).
- Introductions were then done with the individuals attending the afternoon meeting.

IC's Reports – Kim Martin, Type I Team

- The Team along with Kim Martin appreciates everyone support this year
- C & G Staff meeting went fairly well. Felt it was a productive meeting. Team talked over quite a few issues. Helped to have RMCG represented at the C & G Meeting.
- Working on filling out positions on the team. Still looking to fill the Food Unit Leader and GIS position. Everyone that was initially put on the team will still be on the team.



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- Discussed how to handle the S520 candidates and when they should be responding with the team. Kim Martin would like to see team use individuals who have already been to S520 and carry them as monitors on the team. We need to be careful with this because we don't want to knock out the 6 trainees the team is allowed to take with them. RMCG wants to see that as trainees are signed off they are then removed from the team and new trainees are put in their place. Kim Martin stated that was fine but make sure trainees are still engaged somewhere down the line so you don't lose them. RMCG needs to make sure they are sponsoring these folks and taking care of them.
- Discussion about who the teams work for. Team members need to be reminded that they work for RMCG. IC need to verbally tell team members this, because some might not understand this.
- Discussed hurricane forecast this year. Think its going to be a busy year and teams could be used. Need to look at draw down levels and decide what's going to work for RMCG.
- Discussion on put Marc Mullenix in as a Type 1 IC Trainee after going out on one assignment with his team.
- Kim Martin still needs a letter from RMCG requesting him as the IC on the Type 1 Team.
- Discussion was held on RMCG evaluating team this year during an assignment.

IC's Report – Marc Mullenix – Type II Team A

- Marc requested a copy of the letter that was sent to the Southern Region about Team A's hurricane response.
- Discussion was held with Marc about responding with the Type 1 Team as an IC Trainee. Marc stated he would like to do this but also stay involved with his Type II Team. He felt Don Angell was a capable IC and could take the team out without him if he needed to. Marc is ready to commit to the Type 1 team as a trainee. RMCG agreed to this, he will still be acting IC on the Type II Team but will respond with the Type I Team as a trainee when available.
- Discussion was held on RMCG evaluating team this year during an assignment. Background was given by Bill Ott and copy of evaluation form was given to the IC.
- Discussion on how visible RMCG is to the team members. It was decided RMCG needs to become more involved with teams and become more visible to them.

IC's report – Pete Blume, Type II Team B

- Concerns about Air Operations for the teams being so short. Team has real concerns about this shortage.
- Discussion about close out packages. The format that was sent out some time ago. Is this an RMCG package? Is this the RMCG wants the closeout package done? Team B has a very good closeout package now and would like to stay with that. The new package seems to be very labor intensified. Joe stated that this package came from Jim Krugman and is the national standard. RMCG has not seen this so they will have to get back to Team B on this issue.
- Team needs to push using and getting trainees signed off on assignments. This is a critical issue and RMCG wants teams to make sure they are achieving this. Pete Blume stated that they will continue using trainees and get them signed off on their task books but it is up to the agency to qualify them.
- Explained that RMCG is now going to evaluate teams when they are on assignment. History was explained as to why RMCG is doing this and procedures were given to the IC.



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- Requested that Pete Blume create an issue paper concerning the cost of doing business where teams are concerned. Where are the teams heading and who is going to pick up the bills that teams have in the everyday work it requires to run a team. Pete agreed to work on this and present it to RMCG at the next meeting.
- It was requested that teams put together a wish list of what they would like to have for their teams, satellite phones, laptop computers, this sort of thing. This list needs to go to Joyce by July 13th.
- RMCG would like to meet with teams during their team meetings. IC need to make RMCG aware of when those meetings are.

IC's report – Bill Hannenberg, Fire Use Team

- The Fire Use Team had 4 assignments this year with 3 in the geographical area. Spent 45 days on assignment for a total 34,000 acres managed. There were no big issues during these assignments.
- One issue that came up this last year was when the team was ordered to help manage a prescribe burn. The team turned this assignment down simply because the team is not a prescribe burn team. RMCG agrees with this decision.
- Team is ready for assignment. We are third on this rotation list this year.
- Team is trying to build depth by taking 5 trainees out with them on assignments. So far this hasn't been an issue with anyone. Trying to cross train with the fire management teams.
- Team has created a standard operating guideline, something the team has never had before and it's working well.
- Discussion about RMCG going to be coming to incidents and evaluate teams this year. Explained reasons behind this decision. Also want to engage team members and individuals to interact with RMCG.
- Discussion on RMCG helping to support teams finally, RMCG explained what was discussed with Pete Blume. Bill will also work on a wish list and get it to Joyce by the 13th of July.
- Dispatching team from the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center worked well this year. Jim Fletcher agreed.

IC's Report – Joe Lowe, Great Plains Type II Team

- Discussion on RMCG going out and doing team evaluations. Reasons behind it and what the procedures are.
- Team is really coming together. Team is short on air resources but have some ideas and working on trying to get people to commit.
- There will be 8 trainees on team, 4 will be picked by the board of directors and 4 by the IC.
- Team will be dispatched through Great Plains, no problems there.
- Discussion on whether all team members are qualified at the positions they are holding. Joe stated that yes they are. All of them meet 310-1 standards which is all that is required. RMCG is pleased to hear this now they can stop the rumors they are hearing.
- Discussion on hiring retirees and how this process needs to work. RMCG wants all agencies to help with this issue. There are a lot of well qualified people out there and this is a great resource.
- Discussion on how Type III organization will work within the hills. Some issues with this yet but agencies are working them out.

Ray Weidenhaft – Concerns:

- Ray was upset to see the RMCG meeting is not priority to Team meetings. The spring meeting agenda is developed by RMCG. It has become clear that we are trying to do too much in one week. This year the emphasis was put on team preseason meetings and will possibly continue to be the focus in the future.



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- Ray would like to see the Logistics people come up with a standard for office/logistic trailers being ordered by the incidents. The suggestion will be passed to the Operations Committee by Dave Carter.
- RMCG needs to approve Committee meetings. No need for RMCG to approve Committee meetings as long as Committees report the Plan of Work to RMCG in January.
- Is there a process for upper level training classes? If so, RMCG needs to enforce the process. The topic will be brought up when the Training Committee gives their report to RMCG.

Talking Points – Larry Helmerick hand out a document (**HO-1**) called 1006 Wildland Fire Talking Points. It highlights talking points that public affairs officers and public information officers may be asked to comment on by the media. Larry asked RMCG to review it and let him know if there was anything he had missed. Rich Homann mentioned the states have some specific things they would like expressed, such as: The Great Plains Type 2 Team and the SEATs that are brought on. Good document and should be very helpful preparation for information people.

RMCG Liaison to NMAC – Don Artley is RMCG's new Liaison the NMAC. Every two years NMAC rotates its Chair. When the Chair rotates they also look at the Liaison assignments and sometimes rotate them also. This procedure gives balance and continuity and keeps all MAC members familiar with all Geographic areas. He is currently serving as Liaison to two Geographic areas. If they are in a high preparedness level and he is unavailable for conference calls or meetings, he will arrange for an alternate. He will be available and attend the MAC exercise in Denver and May 2nd.

NIMS – NMAC is not sure yet how the NIMS teams will be used. They are not counting on the team being in place and using them this year. It is too soon to know how teams will be used. They have not worked through how all positions will be filled: 10 Members – 7 full time and 3 Specialists. This configuration will provide for continuity and long duration.

Jim Barnett mentioned the teams could have other roles, such as, developing training courses, delivering training and mentoring.

Committee Reports

Training Committee – Scott McDermid

Currently have MOU with five organizations. The Training Committee is asking, "Who polices the organizations that advertise and teach NWCG classes but are not NWCG sanctioned"? Apparently this issue is being dealt with nationally. The Training Committee will develop a plan for identifying sanctioned trainers and present it to RMCG.

Issue Paper – Quinn Macleod (HO-2)

Quinn is requesting permission from RMCG to step down as the Zone Training Representative and a replacement can be found. He feels the Representative should be a member of the federal fire service based on the volume of federal employee nominations being processed. Considering the current workload and time commitment and his permanent job, Quinn does not feel able to properly do the job of the Zone Training Representative.

Decision: The Forest Service has no money to hire a full time training position for the Pueblo Zone as suggested in the Issue Paper. Bill Ott will work with the Forests in the Zone and with the Dispatch Center Board to work this out.



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Issue Paper – Ray Weidenhaft

There is some concern that the USFS is imposing their qualification standards on its cooperators and that the USFS will not allow an ICT3 to manage their incidents unless they meet full USFS standards. The issue paper recommends that RMCG support 310-1 language and allows Cooperator's IMT3s to manage any jurisdictional agencies incidents that they are mobilized to. Bill Ott believes it is USFS policy to support RMCG language and does recognize other agencies standards. He will discuss the issue with his agency. No decision was made on this issue paper. RMCG will discuss it again after Bill discusses it with his agency.

Dispatch – Cal Pino

- Cal attended the Dispatch Workshop this fall. He reported there were no big issues from that meeting.
- Jim Fletcher would like to finalize the Colorado Operating Plan (or Rocky Mountain Operating Plan) and incorporate to RMCG Business Manager position into the plan. He would like to have the plan completed and in place in April.
- Some Dispatch Centers are still showing some resistance to FireOrg. He feels it is a good tool and will eventually be incorporated by other fire planning programs. He asked RMCG to continue to support and encourage FireOrg.
- There was some concern from some managers about Dispatch Centers not looking "fishing" for resources to fill positions if the resources showed unavailable in ROSS. In order to make ROSS work as intended, Dispatch Center will continue with the present policy. They will "fish" occasionally in the off-season for non-typical requests. Dispatch Centers will not "fish" during the fire season. Individual resources and managers must be
- Accountable for their availability in ROSS.
- Jim Fletcher reviewed the agenda for the MAC Exercise and everyone discussed particular issues that need to be incorporated into the exercise.

Operations – Dave Clement (HO-4)

- Dave handed out copies of the updated charter for the Operations Committee. He asked everyone to review it get comments back so he can have a signed copy by the end of the week. Charter was approved and signed.
- Nominations for 2008 420/520/620 trainings are due April 12 and so far, there are only 5. They are working at getting more. Dave asked RMCG approval for nominations to go forward. Approved
- Committee is working on updating the Operations Committee Operating Guide, particularly the Team performance section and the Mentoring process.
- They are trying to get a clear process identified for ESF4 training. This will be revisited in the fall when the National Response Plan is solidified.
- Discussed the cross training of Command and General staff in Wildland fire suppression and Fire Use incidents. In October, RMCG made the decision to recommend all RMA Command and General staff trainees regardless of the type of team, will be cross-trained on both WFU and Wildland fire suppression incidents prior to final task book completion.
- Operations Committee will update the Cache Operating Plan
- There will be a presentation of the CAT team during the Operations Committee meeting. Ops would like RMCG to sit in on the presentation.
- Discussed the 420/520 nomination process



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- Kermit Johnson, Incident Business Committee would like to see some standards for office, communications, helibase trailers for the business people to work with when they are signing up these things. He asked if the Ops Logistic people could develop a standard for each. This is being addressed at a national level but until they have national standards they need something to work with. Dave will ask Logistics for some standards.

Incident Business Committee – Linda Berkefeldt

- The Committee is working on ways to get Teams to recognize States as Cooperators, not Contractors.
- They are continuing with the development of taskbooks for Buying Team members.
- The Business Committee is having concerns about NIMO, such as, are they going to use the BUYTs, are they going to use our EERAs. The answer to those questions is still being worked out.
- They need to coordinate the S-260 training; where is it being presented, who is instructing.
- There is a new form for the Firefighter timesheet.
- The Committee is working on revisions to the Fire Business Management Handbook.

Fuels and Fire Use – Cal Anaker and Mike Frary

- The live fuel moisture reporting is on the RMA web site. There have been problems getting people to report. Live fuel reporting has been an issue since 1994. The FMOs are doing it and using it locally, they are just not reporting it to the region. The Committee is going to try to work this out with the Intell people at RMCC along with the development of a Fuels and Fire Use web site.
- There was approximately 65 people who attending the Fuels and Fire Use workshop. They did a presentation with several attorneys on Burn Boss liability issues. They would like to see RMCG to sponsor a better procedure for Burn Boss liability.
- The Committee is working on the problems with sharing of resources, particularly on RX fire. There is a new interagency RX fire handbook with some major problems in a couple sections. If it comes out as it is, the committee may end up writing a Rocky Mountain supplement.
- The new 310-1 did away with the Type 1 & 2 Ignition Specialist. It has been changed to just Firing Boss.

Information Education – Ross Hauck

- Ross presented the Plan of Work for the Committee (HO-5) and reviewed the accomplishments for the past 12 months.
- Larry is working with the KOA to embed a reporter in some of the operations.
- The Committee ants all Information Officer 420 and 520 candidate nominations to go through the Committee for review. After some discussion it was decided the Info Committee is welcome to send a representative to the Operations Committee meeting to when nominations are reviewed but it will not change the current process for the nominations.

Aviation - Ray Weidenhaft

- Aviation Committee is currently working on rewriting the Charter.

Fire Program Analysis – Dave Carter

- All 15 RMA fire planning units submitted their FY2008 analysis. Committee members participated in 13 of the 15 Technical Certifications. There were no requests for conflict resolution. May FPU's expressed their concerns about the process and the analysis results. A summary of the comments will be forwarded to



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RMCG once they are compiled. The RMA did an outstanding job in meeting the deadline, given all the issues.

Miscellaneous

- The RMCG Charter needs to be updated. Joyce will make obvious changes to the Charter and send it out for review.
- RMCG needs to review and update the current Committee Expectations. Joyce will send the Expectations to each RMCG member for review and comment. We will discuss the Expectations and finalize them at the October meeting.
- Jim Fletcher asked RMCG permission to not finalize the RMA Mobilization Guide until after the Spring Fire Management Meeting.

Decision: RMCG approved

Upcoming Meetings

- October 2006 Meeting – Week of 16th in Cody, Wyoming
- January 2007 Meeting – Week of January 22nd in Denver, Colorado
New Chair – Joe Lowe
New Vice Chair – Bill Wallis
- Spring 2007 Fire Management Meeting – Week of April 2 in Fort Collins, Colorado

Operations Committee Charter

- There was discussion about the Operations Committee Charter. Darrell did not see a problem with the charter. Everyone agreed so Darrell will sign them.

ICT 3 Issue Paper – Ray Weidenhauf

- ICT3 Issue paper was again discussed. The seems to be an issue in some areas where the Forest Service does not want to accept 310-1 ICT3 guidelines. Bill Ott feels this is a in-house issue and he will investigate it and get it fixed. RMCG have all agreed that 310-1 ICT3 guidelines are expectable and request Bill Ott to follow through on this issue and explain to individuals that the Forest Service does accept 310-1 guidelines. Bill agreed to do this. The issue paper will be put on record.

Training Committee

- RMCG again meet with the training committee to discuss the getting a new zone rep for the Pueblo zone.
- An issue about how nom forms are being filled up was discussed. It was decided that students are responsible for filling out nom forms correctly themselves not the zone reps. It was decided that the training committee needs to look at their charter and redefine what the zone reps should be doing. RMCG feels the zone reps are being asked to do to many things. Scott agreed to do this.

Spring Meeting

- Discussion was held on the Spring Meeting. RMCG feels the spring meeting has now become a meeting for the teams primarily. They would like to see the IC's included in the creating of the agenda. All the IC's agreed with this idea and will come to the winter meeting where the agenda is set. All agreed that the format this year for the spring meeting worked well and will be used for next year. One problem was the awards this year. Not enough people were recognized. Need to follow the process that has been setup for the award nominations.



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- RMCG liaison's should get more involved with the awards. Committee members should be recognized and its up the RMCG liaison members to the committees to see that this happens.

RMCG Committee members attend the CAT presentation

- This is a good idea. IC's and agency administrators should consider ordering this product to their fires.

ESF4 issue

- RMCG members need to learn about the ESF4 and our teams responding to all-risk incident thru ESF4. Members don't really understand how to manage ESF4, therefore it is causing out teams issues when they go on an incident under ESF4. It was decided that RMCG members will try to educate themselves on understanding ESF4. They will also send a letter out to NMAC explaining the issue our team had while on assignment in San Antonio.

Business Manager

- Discussion on the hiring a Business Manager. It was decided RMCG will go ahead with hiring this position. Motion was made for the federal agencies that are located in Denver, CO will get together and make this happen. Motion was 2nd. Motion passed by all.

Winter Meeting

- Winter meeting will be moved to Kansas. Ross and Bill W. will work on this and announce location later.

June Conference Call

- It was decided there will be a June conference call. It will be June 1st at 09:30.

Meeting was adjourned.